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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 22, 1994

**SANDERS COMMENDS ADMINISTRATION FOR TAKING POSITIVE STEPS
ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD RIGHTS TREATY**

Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., in a speech on the House floor today, announced he is pleased with the Clinton Administration's efforts concerning the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Treaty.

The U.N. Convention is an international treaty which establishes minimum standards for the treatment of children. Currently, one hundred and seventy-one nations have signed the treaty. The United States is one of only nineteen nations who have not ratified the measure.

Sanders, sponsor of H. Con Res. 15, a resolution urging the President to sign the treaty, said he was happy to announce his pleasure over the Administration's recent actions on this issue. "Mr. Speaker, I am happy to tell you that President Clinton has recently informed me that he has taken the positive step of asking the Departments of Justice, State, Health and Human Services to conduct a comprehensive review of the convention. Further, at a news conference last week that I organized, Dr. William Galston, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, indicated that this task force would make a recommendation to the President this spring," Sanders said.

Noting that the United States, at 22%, has double the rate of childhood poverty of any other industrialized country, Sanders today said he was happy efforts are underway to change this. Sanders said, "I am delighted that we are finally making some important progress on this issue, and am cautiously optimistic that President Clinton, unlike his predecessor, will soon sign this treaty and send it to the Senate for ratification."

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